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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/915,465	07/26/2001	Michael Wayne Brown	AUS920010393US1	7021

7590 12/01/2004

International Business Machines Corporation
Intellectual Property Law Department
Internal Zip 4054
11400 Burnet Road
Austin, TX 78758

EXAMINER

PHILLIPS, HASSAN A

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2151

DATE MAILED: 12/01/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/915,465	BROWN ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Hassan Phillips	2151	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 20 September 2001.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-30 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-30 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 20 September 2001 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>7/26/01</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Information Disclosure Statement

1. The Information Disclosure Statement filed July 26, 2001, has been received and considered by the Examiner.

Specification

1. The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities: The text on page 1, line 10 through page 2, line 2, should be updated with the current status of the cited applications such as, U.S. Patent Application Serial No. and filing date, or U.S. Patent No. and issue date. Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

2. Claims 1-5, 8-12, 15-18, 21, are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Simonoff U.S. Patent 6,463,460.

3. In considering claims 1, 9, and 16, Simonoff teaches a method, system and program for recording a messaging session, said method comprising the steps of: Enabling a particular user to edit a messaging entry previously submitted in a messaging session, wherein at least one other user has participated in said messaging session; and, saving said edit to said messaging entry with said messaging session, such that said particular user is enabled to edit said messaging session prior to saving as a record. See col. 18, lines 12-31. Also see col. 25, lines 25-37.

4. In considering claims 2, and 10, Simonoff teaches receiving said edit at a messaging server communicatively connected via a network to a plurality of client messaging systems accessible to said users. See col. 25, lines 25-37.

5. In considering claim 3, Simonoff teaches receiving said edit at a particular client messaging system accessible to said particular user communicatively connected via a network to a plurality of client messaging systems accessible to said users. See col. 9, lines 46-57.

6. In considering claims 4, 11, and 17, Simonoff teaches allowing editing by said particular user, enabling said particular user to edit said messaging entry. See col. 19, lines 12-31.

7. In considering claims 5, 12, and 18, Simonoff teaches providing an interface to the particular user for entering the edit to the messaging entry. See col. 6, lines 38-56.

8. In considering claims 8, 15, and 21, Simonoff teaches distributing the messaging session with the edit to the message entry to at least one other user. See col. 17, lines 39-59.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 6, 7, 13, 14, 19, 20, 22-30, rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Simonoff.

3. In considering claims 6, 13, and 19, although the teachings of Simonoff show substantial features of the claimed invention, they fail to expressly disclose: Submitting a request to edit the message entry.

Nevertheless Simonoff does teach: Approving at least one other user to edit the message entry. See col. 18, lines 23-25.

Thus, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify the teachings of Simonoff to show submitting a request to the at least one other user to approve the edit of the messaging entry. This would have provided an efficient means for approving users to edit the messaging entry, by only approving users to edit the messaging entry from the group of users who submit the requests.

4. In considering claims 7, 14, and 20, the teachings of Simonoff provide a means for receiving the approval with a digital signature corresponding to the at least one other user; and storing the digital signature with the edit of the messaging entry. See col. 18, lines 12-43.

5. In considering claims 22, 26, and 29, Simonoff teaches a method, system and program for editing previously submitted message entries in a messaging session, said method comprising the steps of: Receiving editing authorization, submitting an edit to said message entry, such that a recording of said messaging session is adjusted according to said edit to said message entry. See col. 18, lines 12-31. Also see col. 25, lines 25-37.

Although the teachings of Simonoff show substantial features of the claimed invention, they fail to expressly disclose: Submitting a request to edit the message entry.

Nevertheless Simonoff does teach: Approving at least one other user to edit the message entry. See col. 18, lines 23-25.

Thus, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify the teachings of Simonoff to show submitting a request to the at least one other user to approve the edit of the messaging entry. This would have provided an efficient means for approving users to edit the messaging entry, by only approving users to edit the messaging entry from the group of users who submit the requests.

6. In considering claims 23 and 27, Simonoff teaches submitting said request to edit a previously submitted entry from a client messaging system communicatively connected via a network to a messaging server. See col. 17, lines 39-59.

7. In considering claim 24, Simonoff teaches submitting said request to edit a previously submitted entry from a particular client messaging system communicatively connected via a network to at least one other client messaging system. See col. 17, lines 39-59.

8. In considering claims 25, 28, and 30, Simonoff teaches in response to receiving approvals for said edit from at least one other user associated with said messaging session, storing said messaging session with said edit as a record accessible to said at least one other user. See col. 25, lines 25-37.

Conclusion

1. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Nielsen, U.S. Patent 5,870,548 discloses a method and apparatus for editing sent email messages.

Knight et al., U.S. Patent 6,571,234 discloses a system and method for editing messages on an online message board.

Gupta et al., U.S. Patent Publication 2002/0099777 discloses a method for users to save and edit collaborative email messages.

Golan, U.S. Patent Publication 2002/0194278 discloses a system and method for transparently correcting transmitted email messages.

2. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Hassan Phillips whose telephone number is (571) 272-3940. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8:00am-5:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Zarni Maung can be reached on (571) 272-3939. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Art Unit: 2151

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

HP/
11/18/04



ZARNI MAUNG
PRIMARY EXAMINER